



Tennessee News Release

Tennessee Field Office · PO Box 41505 · Nashville, TN 37204 · (615) 781-5300 · www.nass.usda.gov
In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

AUGUST WEATHER REDUCES YIELD POTENTIAL IN CROPS

NASHVILLE, September 10, 2010 – Hot and mostly dry weather during August took a toll on crops in the Volunteer State and lowered yield expectations. Widely scattered showers, although welcomed, were not enough to offset the stifling heat. There were also some isolated cases of heavy downpours that resulted in localized flooding. A September 1 survey of farmers conducted by the Tennessee Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service showed the following: **Corn**, 122 bushels per acre, down 26 bushels from last year's record yield of 148 bushels; **Cotton**, 881 pounds per acre, up 38 pounds from last year; **Soybeans**, 34 bushels per acre, 11 bushels below last year's record yield of 45 bushels per acre; and **Burley Tobacco**, 1,800 pounds per acre, down 120 pounds from last year.

COTTON PRODUCTION RISES ABOVE 2009

Tennessee's cotton production is forecast at 710,000 bales, up 44 percent from last year but down 20,000 bales from a month earlier. Cotton yields are expected to average 881 pounds per acre, up 38 pounds from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 387,000 acres, up 107,000 acres from 2009. August weather was generally very hot, but scattered showers in most cotton producing counties kept the outlook favorable for good yields. The crop is now opening rapidly at a pace about two weeks ahead of normal. Defoliation is occurring and harvest will start soon. Bolls are reported as small but numerous. On the positive side, the crop received good heat units but the gain was held back by oppressively hot night-time temperatures.

SOYBEAN PRODUCTION DOWN NEARLY A THIRD

Soybean production is forecast at 47.9 million bushels, down 30 percent from last year. Soybean yields are forecast at 34 bushels per acre, 11 bushels below the previous record of 45 bushels per acre set in 2009. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.41 million acres, down 120,000 from a year ago. The lack of soaking rains during August, coupled with hot and dry weather, caused a reduction in yield potential. There were pockets across the state that did receive some rainfall, but most of these places were not in our largest soybean producing areas. Double-cropped soybeans were short and growers were pessimistic concerning yields.

CORN PRODUCTION BELOW 2009 LEVEL

Tennessee's corn production is forecast at 73.2 million bushels, down 16 percent from a year ago. Yields are expected to average 122 bushels per acre, 26 bushels below 2009's record yield of 148 bushels per acre. Farmers expect to harvest 600,000 acres for grain, 10,000 more than last year. As of the week ending September 5, eighty-eight percent of the state's corn crop was mature, with over half of the acreage already harvested. Growers report variable success with yield extremes on both the high and low sides. Favorable harvest weather has occurred.

BURLEY PRODUCTION HOLDS STEADY FROM A YEAR AGO

As of September 1, burley production is forecast at 27.0 million pounds, virtually unchanged from a year ago. Yields are forecast to average 1,800 pounds per acre, down 120 pounds from last year. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 15,000 acres, an increase of 1,000 acres from 2009. Forecasts for the dark types are unchanged, but burley producers saw prospects diminish from what they thought earlier. Unfortunately, some of the rainfall in August came in the form of severe weather that laid down some burley tobacco and flooded out other fields. Overall, growers report that they opted to top and harvest early to save what they could from a drought stricken crop. As a result, even when beneficial rains fell, it was too late. Yields are expected to be highly variable, ranging from excellent to very poor. On the positive side, the crop is curing very well. Topping is about completed and harvest is in full-swing. Tennessee's dark-fired tobacco yields are forecast at 2,800 pounds per acre, down 300 pounds from the previous year, while dark air-cured is forecast to yield 2,500 pounds per acre, down 200 pounds from 2009.

(OVER)

CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, SEPTEMBER 1, 2010, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Units	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2009	Indicated 2010	2009	Indicated 2010	2009	Indicated 2010
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
TENNESSEE							
Apples	lb.	---	---	8,890	10,000	8,000	9,000
Corn for grain	bu.	590	600	148	122	87,320	73,200
Cotton ¹	lb.	280	387	843	881	492	710
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	Ton	1,900	1,900	2.20	2.20	4,180	4,180
Soybeans	bu.	1,530	1,410	45.0	34.0	68,850	47,940
Tobacco, All	lb.	21.6	22.3	2,313	2,113	49,960	47,110
Dark fire-cured	lb.	6.4	6.2	3,100	2,800	19,840	17,360
Burley	lb.	14.0	15.0	1,920	1,800	26,880	27,000
Dark air-cured	lb.	1.2	1.1	2,700	2,500	3,240	2,750
Winter Wheat	bu.	340	190	51.0	52.0	17,340	9,880
UNITED STATES							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,914,900	9,476,100
Corn for grain	bu.	79,590	81,005	164.7	162.5	13,110,062	13,159,700
Cotton ¹	lb.	7,528.7	10,773	777	839	12,187.5	18,840.8
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	38,528	38,924	1.98	2.09	76,412	81,439
Soybeans	bu.	76,372	77,986	44.0	44.7	3,359,011	3,482,899
Tobacco, All	lb.	354.2	331.1	2,322	2,193	822,567	726,253
Dark fire-cured	lb.	16.15	15.40	3,281	3,056	52,990	47,055
Burley	lb.	101.9	90.9	2,109	1,980	214,896	179,975
Dark air-cured	lb.	5.8	5.9	2,938	2,744	17,040	16,190
Winter Wheat	bu.	34,485	32,085	44.2	47.5	1,522,718	1,522,902

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

##

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at www.nass.usda.gov